

MEADOWOOD ACQUISITION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

- Q:** When and where will BLM conduct the public meeting to gather comments and ideas for the use of Meadowood?
- A:** The public meeting will be conducted at 7:00pm on Wednesday, May 16, 2001 at Gunston Elementary School, on Gunston Road in Lorton, VA. For more information, you may contact Mr. Horace Traylor at (703) 440-1745.
- Q:** What is the timetable for BLM acquisition?
- A:** The current projection is that BLM will formally acquire Meadowood late in the Fall of this year.
- Q:** How does BLM plan to utilize and manage Meadowood after acquisition?
- A:** Our current thinking is to maintain Meadowood as a multiple-use facility, with an initial focus on public recreation, environmental education, and wild horse and burro interpretation. We plan to keep a small number of wild and gentled horses and burros at the center for public viewing of how they exist in the wild (the "before" condition) and how they can be gentled for use as domestic animals (the "after" condition). Using the gentled stock, we hope to develop youth riding and horse care programs and also to hold periodic small adoptions of wild horses and burros.
- Q:** Will wild horses be allowed to roam openly on Meadowood as on a refuge?
- A:** No. The wild horses will not be allowed to run free at Meadowood. They will be corralled in pens with six-foot-high, metal pipe fences. Safety will be our paramount concern: safety for the animals and safety for people visiting the center and living in surrounding neighborhoods.
- Q:** How will current horse boarders be affected by the BLM's intended use of the stables?
- A:** Although it will be some time before final decisions are made on the activities at Meadowood, our preliminary concept involves continuing private boarding and we are actively exploring ways to do so. In any event, we are committed to honoring a 6-months advance notice policy for any BLM-initiated relinquishment of stalls.

- Q: How would privately-owned horses be protected from exposure to diseases carried by wild horses?**
- A: Any time horses are shipped from location to location, they are subject to exposure to various illnesses. While we cannot guarantee that any boarders' horses would not be exposed to a contagious disease, we will make every effort to limit the possibility of exposure. Wild horses receive veterinarian examinations including inoculations for common, communicable equine diseases and they will have current negative**

Coggins tests. Upon arrival at Meadowood, they will be separately quartered and pastured. Because the stress of shipping often subjects horses and burros to increased potential for exposure to disease, we would isolate any new arrivals. We also would require that all boarders maintain current vaccines on their horse for a number of equine diseases, including strangles.

- Q: What opportunity will the public have to participate in BLM's planning for Meadowood?**
- A: We anticipate holding a public meeting at 7:00pm on May 16th at Gunston Elementary School in Lorton , VA. The next opportunity for public input will be by way of comment on the draft environmental assessment which we anticipate issuing in July or August. The preface to the document will contain the due date and address for comments. After consideration of the comments, we will prepare and issue a Final Environmental Assessment followed by Activity Plans which will also be available for public comment before they are implemented. The Activity Plans are program-specific prescriptions for BLM's post-acquisition uses of Meadowood. Both the planning analysis/ environmental assessment and the activity plans will be posted on this website.**

5/10/01